Tune In to the Midnight Heart

Finding the girl behind the voice.

Tune In to the Midnight Heart

SHE MOST LIKELY WROTE THIS SONG A LONG TIME AGO.

...IT'S CLEAR THAT HER SONGS CAN MOVE HEARTS.

WHILE I THINK SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST TOO PRONE TO TEARS...

I HAVE NO IDEA WHY SHE'S LOCKED THAT TALENT AWAY...

...BUT IT SEEMS SHE'S TAKEN A FEW STEPS FORWARD THANKS TO HER FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS.

IT'S ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES...

...BUT IT GOES WELL WITH HER VOICE. IT'S A VERY "INOHANA" SONG.

...GUIDE THEM ALL BY MYSELF, BUT THAT WAS JUST MY HUBRIS.

I THOUGHT THAT I COULD...

WHEN THEY RUN INTO ADVERSITY IN THE FUTURE...

I DON'T KNOW THEIR PAST, OR WHAT WOUNDS THEY BEAR IN THEIR HEARTS.

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN LEANING ON EACH OTHER FOR SUPPORT ALL THIS TIME.

...BUT RATHER, THE BONDS BETWEEN THEM.

...WHAT HELPS THEM OVERCOME THAT PROBABLY WON'T BE ME...

...WITH THAT IN MIND...

SO...

LII TA—

...WHY DON'T YOU FOUR HANG OUT WITH EACH OTHER EVERY NOW AND THEN...

...AND HAVE SOME FUN TOGETHER IN ORDER TO BOLSTER YOUR SOLIDARITY?

HA DA

WHY DID YOU PICK SOMEWHERE SO FAR AWAY?

I WANT TO GET SNEAKERS FOR MY LITTLE SISTER.

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT HERE?

MY LITTLE SISTER LOVES THIS PLACE.

SO, WHY A SHOPPING MALL?

Hngh..

THAT ASIDE...

Stop bab-bling about your little sister!

WHY DON'T YOU JUST BRING HER ALONG?!

THIS PLACE HAS GOOD PARFAITS...

OR SO MY LITTLE SISTER SAID.

I WANT TO GET SOME NEW CLOTHES!

PREPARING FOR SPORTS DAY REALLY ATE UP ALL OUR TIME.

future Store

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE WENT SOMEWHERE TOGETHER, HUH?

TMP TMP TMP TMP

PULL

W-WAIT!

I TOLD YOU ALL TO HAVE SOME FUN TOGETHER...

NOT CARING ABOUT YOU IS MY DEFAULT STATE OF MIND.

Heh heh heh!

JUST HAVE AS MUCH FUN AS YOU WANT!

PAY NO MIND TO ME, THE GOFER BOY.

...CAN YOU HELP ME PICK OUT MY CLOTHES?

SQUEEZE

HEY, MR. GOFER.

IF YOU'RE FREE RIGHT NOW...

WELL...

もじ FIDGET

FIDGET もじ

...BUT WOULDN'T THE OTHER THREE BE MORE SUITABLE FOR THIS TASK?

I DON'T MIND...

COME ON, LET'S GO!

So you have no issue with me finding out?

もじ FIDGET

I'D DIE OF EMBARRASSMENT IF THEY FOUND OUT...

I'VE ACTUALLY PUT ON WEIGHT LATELY.

もじ FIDGET

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS?

HOW ABOUT THIS?

IS THIS A BIT TOO SHOWY?

SWISH

YOU'VE ONLY BEEN TRYING ON WHITE CLOTHES SO FAR.

I DO LIKE THAT COLOR.

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU'D ACTUALLY TRY THIS HARD TO HELP ME.

Hmm...

IT'S WELL-BALANCED, BUT ALSO A BIT TOO LIMITING.

78 POINTS... ACTUALLY, LET ME REVISE IT SOME MORE.

APOLLO ALSO SAID SOME-THING SIMILAR...

...

LIVE

I'M WEARING A WHITE OUTFIT RIGHT NOW!

I LIKE THAT COLOR, YOU SEE.

Apollo

IDNIGHT HEART TUNE

...BUT I STILL LACK CONCLUSIVE PROOF.

...

STARE

TRACES OF APOLLO IN THESE GIRLS EVERY NOW AND THEN...

I KEEP SEEING ...

DOES YOUR SILENCE MEAN...

SO...

I MEAN, THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO LIKE THE COLOR WHITE...

...THAT YOU LIKE THIS SHOWY OUTFIT?

I'm just kidding!

かぁぁぁ

I-I DIDN'T ASK WHETHER I LOOK CUTE OR NOT..

BLUUUSH

WHERE DID THE OTHER THREE GO, ANYWAY?

C...

YEAH, THAT OUTFIT IS THE BEST ONE FOR YOU SO FAR.

YOU LOOK REALLY *CUTE* IN IT.

COME WITH ME RIGHT NOW!

THIS IS AN EMER-GENCY!

BUCKY! YOU GOTTA HELP ME!

WHAM

GWOOOH ?!

SQUEEK

SO, YOU WANT ME TO GET IT OUT?

I ALREADY PAID A THOUSAND YEN* FOR THIS, TOO!

IT'S STUCK IN THE CHUTE!

*ABOUT $10.

I'M ACTUALLY ...

Heh heh.

QUITE ADEPT WITH CLAW MACHINES.

JUST YOU WATCH.

PLEASE!

I NEED THIS...

...SO INSTEAD OF GRABBING, YOU NEED TO USE IT FOR PUSHING INSTEAD.

THE CLAW'S GRIPPING STRENGTH IS SET TO LOW...

BEEP

STOOOP!

SPACE CATCHER

...AND DO THIS.

SQUISHHH

WHIRR

SPACE CATCHER

I'LL JUST MOVE IT OVER HERE...

PLONK

I'M ACTUALLY REALLY GOOD AT SEWING, TOO.

THE STUFFING IS GONNA SPILL OUT!

SST

THAT'S HOW A YAMABUKI DOES IT!

HERE.

I WANT IT TO REMAIN UNDAM-AGED!

RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB
WOW
おお！
...THAT HAD MY SCENT ON IT.
Apollo
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I JUST COULDN'T SLEEP WITHOUT A PLUSHIE...
GETTING MY SCENT ON IT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
That's kinda creepy...
I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN MY PLUSHIES HAVE SOMEONE ELSE'S SCENT ON THEM.
Thanks!
OH, WE'RE DONE HERE. YOU CAN GO!
HEY, IS THAT HABIT-
THIS GIRL ALSO SAID SOMETHING SIMILAR TO THAT...

HEY, GOFER BOY.

THERE'S NO POINT IF THEY DON'T HAVE FUN TOGETHER.

UNBELIEV-ABLE... THEY'RE ALL JUST DOING THEIR OWN THINGS!

YOU WANT SOME TAKO-YAKI?

I ORDERED A BIT TOO MANY.

WHAT?

NOTHING! JUST SIT DOWN AND EAT!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? IF I DON'T CALL YOU THAT...

WHAT DID I TELL YOU? DON'T JUST CASUALLY CALL ME A GOFER BOY IN PUBLIC

L"

STARE!!

JUST WHAT FLAVOR DID YOU GET?

LET ME ASK YOU ONE THING...

I ALWAYS ORDER THAT FLAVOR!

Apollo

MAYONNAISE WITH SPICY COD ROE IS THE BEST WAY TO EAT TAKOYAKI FOR ME!

SST

WHUMP

THERE'S MAYONNAISE WITH SPICY COD ROE, TOO.

THERE IS?! SERI-OUSLY?!

HUH? SALT AND GREEN ONIONS.

O-OKAY.

OH...

CAN I GET A TOOTH-PICK, TOO?

LET'S DIG IN.

IGNORED.

THE HELL?! DO YOU LIKE MAYONNAISE AND SPICY COD ROE THAT MUCH?!

HERE.

SA

dhh

MUNCH

I MEAN, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

THERE'S ONLY ONE TOOTHPICK, AFTER ALL.

This is embarrassing!

WHY ARE YOU FEEDING IT TO ME?!

I BET YOU MUST BE OVERJOYED, BEING FED BY A BEAUTY LIKE ME.

Don't you mean, "does it taste good?"

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?

A-ANYWAY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE INOHANA IS?

WELL?

DOES IT FILL YOU WITH JOY?

SMIP
SMIP
ちょきー
ちょき
YOU COULD HAVE BEEN A BIT MORE FLUSTERED, YOU KNOW.
WHAT'S EVEN THE POINT OF ME TEASING YOU?
I'LL GO DRAG HER BACK!
THANKS FOR THE TAKO-YAKI!
SHE SAID SHE'S WATCHING DUCKS BY THE RIVER.
WHY'D SHE LEAVE THE SHOPPING MALL?!
WE'LL NEED A CHANGE OF PLANS.
...BUT SINCE YOU JUST WON'T DO AS I SAY...
I TOLD YOU ALL TO HAVE FUN TOGETHER...
THIS WAY, YOU'LL ALL BE FORCED TO DEEPEN YOUR FRIEND-SHIP!
OUR FRIENDSHIP IS PLENTY DEEP AS IS, I'M TELLING YOU.
THE HONEY TEA HERE IS REALLY GOOD.
Wow..
YOU'RE SO LOUD.
THE LIGHTING IS SO LEWD...
WE'LL BE DOING KARAOKE INSTEAD!

I'M RATHER SURPRISED WE'RE DOING KARAOKE AGAIN.

DID YOU ENJOY OUR KARAOKE DATE THAT MUCH?

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO WARRANT SUCH SLANDER!

YUP.

YOU'RE A TOTAL MAN-WHORE.

YUP.

YOU'RE A GIGOLO.

YUP.

YOU'RE A WOMAN-IZER.

THIS IS TO THANK YOU...

HUGGIES

...FOR SINGING THAT SONG TO ME THE OTHER DAY.

BEEP

I'M GOING TO SING FIRST, THEN.

WHAT SONG ARE YOU SINGING?

THIS IS...

IS THIS SOME KIND OF MES-SAGE?

LIKING THE SAME COLOR AND THE SAME TAKOYAKI FLAVOR IS ONE THING...

...BUT LIKING THE SAME MINOR BAND THAT BROKE UP YEARS AGO? IS THAT REALLY JUST A COINCIDENCE?

...RIKKA ONCE LOVED.

IT'S THE BAND...

INO-HANA.

ARE YOU ACTUALLY—

I DISCOVERED THIS REALLY AMAZING BAND!

LISTEN, ARISU!

Apollo

...GHT HEART TUNE

ラ LAAA

HEY...

WHA ?!!

ラ LAAA イ

ボエ BOEEEH

WHOA WHOA...

WHOA WHOA... HOLD ON A SECOND!

YOU ALL KNOW THIS BAND?!

UH, YEAH?

WE ALL LOVE THEM.

WE'VE EVEN PLAYED THEIR SONGS DURING OUR NOON BROADCASTS BEFORE.

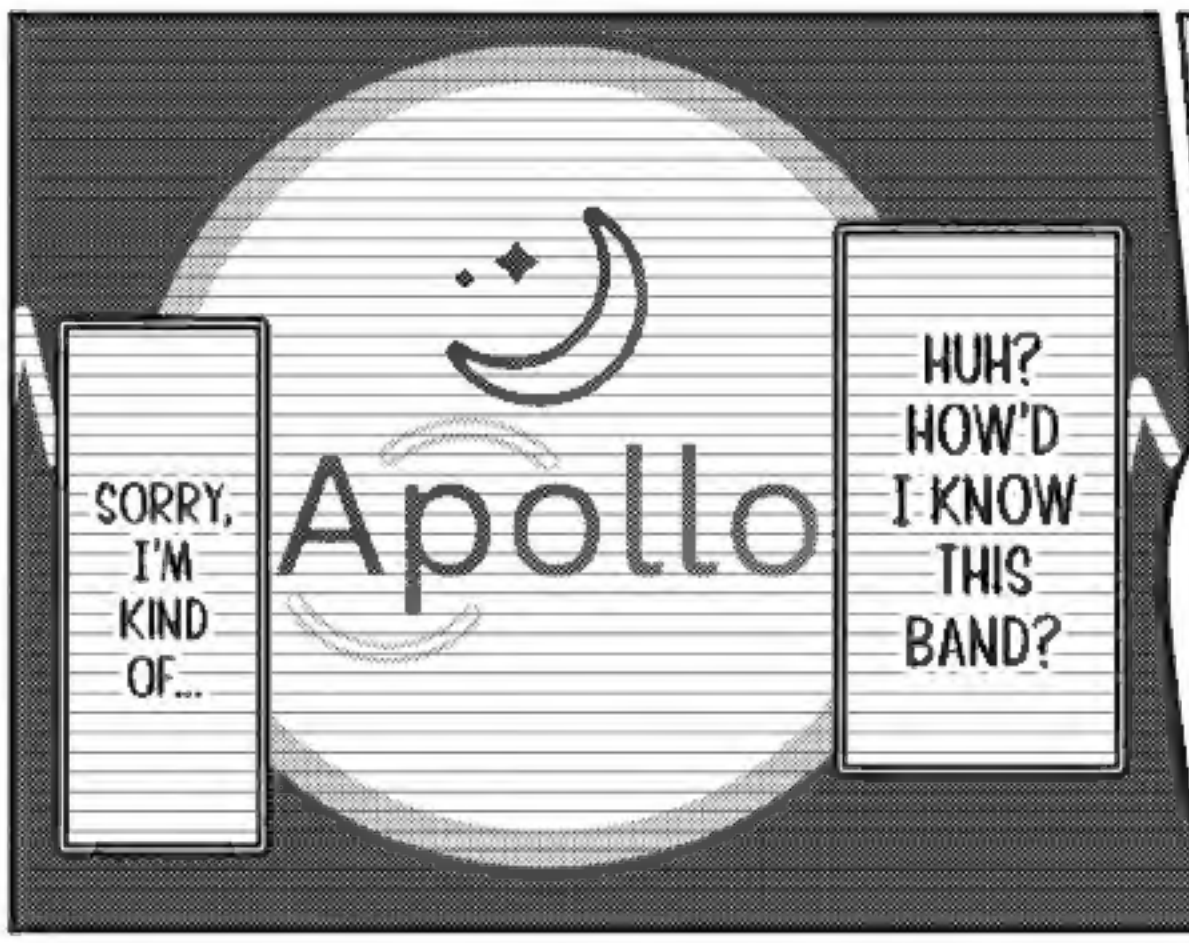
BUT THEY'RE NOT A WELL-KNOWN BAND!

SOMEONE BROUGHT THEIR ALBUM TO THE CLUB.

WH-WHO WAS THE ONE...

WE DIDN'T HAVE A CD PLAYER, SO WE HAD TO BORROW ONE FROM A TEACHER.

... WHO BROUGHT THAT CD?!



CHAPTER 19: FORGETFUL